

New Books That Tell You All About Russia

The Russian Revolution.

GOING to Russia, a Socialist by conviction, Rheta Childe Dorr, author of *Inside the Russian Revolution*, returned "with the very clear conviction that the world will have to wait a while before it can establish any cooperative millennium or before it can safely hand over the work of the Government to the man in the street." She was for three months in Petrograd last summer and saw the downfall of autocracy and the birth of liberty amid orgies of bloodshed, vice and all other wickedness.

German spies in the guise of Socialists, with pockets well lined with gold, urged lawlessness in a manner to pave the way for the Kaiser's soldiers in their present drive. Carpetbaggers from America, who could not be dragged near the firing line, went to Russia and not only worked into the hands of the Kaiser, but assailed the United States, where they had been living in freedom since fleeing from Russia. Such persons' spoutings were believed by the Russian radicals in preference to arguments of members of the Root Commission.

Here is a verbatim report of part of a speech made by a man fresh from Grand street, New York, to an admiring audience on the Nevsky Prospekt:

"Don't you believe the United States is in this war for democracy. The United States is just as imperialistic as England. You ought to read what Lincoln Steffens and John Reed wrote about the United States and Mexico."

Various incidents are cited to show how liberty acted like a drug on the whole populace. Men mowed down friends and neighbors in the streets with machine guns. Officers of regiments were assassinated wholesale and hundreds of men and women were thrown into prison, many never to be heard of again.

What the author calls the real story of the murder of Rasputin is given in detail—how he was lured to the home of Prince Felix Yussupoff, husband of a niece of the late Czar; stabbed, shot and beaten until near death, and then thrown into the Moika Canal, after the ice had been cut to put the body into the water.

"The Battalion of Death," made up of women who not only shamed deserting soldiers into going back to the firing line, but who fought bravely at the front, figures considerably in the volume, as the author was in the field with these amazons for a time.

Predictions made by the author last May are coming true in Russia now. She has not given up hope for Russia, but believes that a strong man will arise from the masses and lead the people to their destiny. In an analytical manner that characterizes the book the author shows the weaknesses of Kerensky, Lenin, Korniloff and other past leaders.

INSIDE THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. BY RHETA CHILDE DORR. The Macmillan Company. \$1.50.

"In the War"

THE second volume, *In the War*, in a series of Slavic translations by Leo Weiner, professor of Slavic languages at Harvard, is at hand. Although not characterized as such, the work practically constitutes a day to day chronicle of events in the Russo-Japanese war as viewed from a field hospital.

Under the old regime in Russia such a publication would have meant Siberia to its author, because it is an incisive expose of official incompetence, waste, cruelty and that insuperable string of formalities known as "paper militarism."

Dr. Veresayev has calmly and dispassionately performed a terrible and complete analysis in his vivisection of conditions at that time. One really can scarcely conceive of the situations described occurring in modern warfare; the appalling lack of even elementary care for the peasant soldiers, the behavior of the overbearing, inflated officers, the re-



HENRY M. RIDEOUT
Author of "Key of the Fields and Boldero"

volting details of hospital conditions and beds filled with the despised sick who were taken from the trenches only when they had to be removed on stretchers.

The reader will find it interesting to observe the Japanese army from an unbiased Russian standpoint. They represented a vast surprise, later an ideal and a reproach. You see the Russians looting and dissipating, the Japanese paying as they go and retaining order, the Russians thinly clad, the Japanese and their prisoners in fur jackets. Likewise in suitable accordance with paper discipline, the Russian medico-sanitary positions almost without exception were held by military men, whereas similar positions in the enemy's camp were occupied by well known professors of medicine.

The book is absorbing but not swiftly moving, and incidentally it may be said in passing that although written by a Russian it is a nodding plume in the war bonnet of Japan.

IN THE WAR. BY V. VERESAYEV. Mitchell Kennerley. \$2.

'The Fall of the Romanoffs'

HOW THE EX-EMPRESS AND Rasputin caused the Russian Revolution, the sub-title of *The Fall of the Romanoffs*, gives the anonymous author every opportunity to describe, attack and condemn the ill fated Czarina from the time she first came to the Russian Court with a rooted contempt for all things Russian and a strict adherence to German court etiquette to the day when, with the Czar and her five children, she left Petrograd probably forever.

There is something about the behavior of the intolerant little Princess of Hesse toward her subjects and her prejudice against any influence that was not distinctly German which reminds the reader of another little Princess who once came to Paris with a kindred contempt for things French, and told a starving populace to eat cake!

The most prejudiced historians could not portray a character more unlovable than that of the Czarina in *The Fall of the Romanoffs*—selfish, arrogant, superstitious, cruel, anxious even, the author hints, to hasten the fall of the Czar that she might be regent for her little son. We are told she was the source of pro-German influence even before the war, and during it did everything in her power to effect a separate peace. "I really don't know on whose side I am to be," the little Czarevitch is quoted as saying. "When the Russians are beaten papa looks glum and when the Germans are beaten mamma cries!"

And then Rasputin! Like some dark tide of the Middle Ages reads the story of his hypnotic influence over his Empress, his drunken carousals in Moscow and the capital, protected, perforce, by the police; the power he wielded over the most aristocratic and exclusive court

circle in Europe, a power which, it was rumored, had its source in Berlin.

Throughout his narrative the author has every sympathy for the Czar, struggling to free himself and country from the web of intrigue that surrounded them, attempting to find some way to rid the court of a designing and ignorant charlatan until he finally gave up in despair, saying: "Better twenty Rasputins than one hysteric."

Sometimes the reader wonders if the Czarina hasn't really received more than her share of blame—surely one person could hardly have been wholly responsible for the munitions failures in the first part of the war and the colossal blunders of the Carpathian campaign; for the wilful shifting of Ministers and Cabinet officials in 1915 and 1916; for the failure at court to heed revolutionary rumblings. But no melodrama could be more lurid than this intimate description of royal Russian life written apparently by some one closely in touch with the Czar's family. The author is a royalist herself, for she describes a Russia without a czar as a country without a soul; "the Russians were fighting for the Czar, not for any abstract idea of loyalty toward the Allies."

THE FALL OF THE ROMANOFFS. ANONYMOUS. E. P. Dutton & Co.

"Abused Russia"

ALTHOUGH *Abused Russia* was written before the war, it lends material assistance in studying the panorama of the Russian revolution, now unrolling before us; for this book by Dr. C. C. Young—born, reared and educated in Russia—makes many recent happenings more intelligible by throwing light on the antecedent conditions.

As a sample of the Russian misunderstanding of America he cites a conversation with a Russian countess "of national reputation" who insisted with great heat that "the lynchings of the United States ought to be stopped by the well drilled soldiers of Europe, that the President ought to be executed for not exercising his power to stop these inhuman and outrageous death penalties which proved conclusively that the Americans were not entitled to be called a civilized people."

The brief but exceptionally lucid historical sketch of the Russian people should prove of value to those who have not the time to wade into the mass of matter through which these facts are accessible. The account of the ancient Russian republic of Novgorod, established a thousand years ago, "with a constitution that causes men of modern times to marvel, a constitution that could have been formed only by a people supersaturated with the spirit of liberty and dominated by an unshakable belief in the equality of mankind," is of timely interest in suggesting the possibility of a semi-barbarous people establishing a stable and beneficent government for themselves.

The question naturally arises, Will the Russian people to-day, having overthrown the autocracy, be equal to an occasion to which their semi-barbarous ancestors arose? Dr. Young's surmises upon the prospects for a democratic Russia are—**with consideration to the foregoing—decidedly interesting:**

The Russian, he tells us, "is essentially a democrat, but with a very loose plan of how to maintain his democracy. . . . Few Russians understand that political liberty cannot exist without discipline. . . . Until Russians come to understand the wisdom of self-restraint [this was written before the overthrow of the autocracy] they can never be governed otherwise than by . . . a military autocracy." Otherwise Dr. Young fears for Russia—what subsequent events have induced others to fear—the fate of Mexico.

Dr. Young thinks that the abrogation of the American treaty with Russia was a serious mistake and that we should not attempt to meddle with the internal affairs of Russia. He reminds us that upward of \$80,000,000 worth of American goods are bought annually in Russia and that less than \$8,000,000 of Russian goods are bought by Americans.

Quoting a business man of Tashkent, he sums up the economic situation: "Once the time comes when we are not only able to do without your cotton but can compete with you in the markets of the world, then your people will not be so anxious



OLIVE WADSLLEY
Author of "The Flame"

to abrogate treaties . . . or seek to meddle with the internal administration of our country."

Dr. Young warns us that immense areas in western Turkestan are now being planted with cotton, that "another such blunder as the abrogation of the treaty and we will have lost forever our chances of doing business with Russia, and Germany by rattling her sabre will get it all."

ABUSED RUSSIA. BY DR. C. C. YOUNG. The Devin Adair Company. \$2.

"The Language of Color."

WILL there ultimately be an art based purely or predominantly on color? What is the future of the language of color? If color assumes a leading role will it, with the aid of such factors as rhythm, be able to please mankind in a manner comparable with music?

M. Luckiesh asks these questions in his uncommonly interesting treatise on *The Language of Color*—and himself goes a long way in laying a foundation for further investigation in a field whose possibilities have only been hinted at up to this time. His book is brief but comprehensive and may be read with distinct profit and understanding by the layman, notwithstanding the fact that it is obviously the work of a thorough scientist.

Mr. Luckiesh touches on the impressions made by light and color on the earliest peoples—shows the significance of color in nature, literature, painting, religion and the theatre—and presents an interesting analysis of the symbolism of the various colors in the minds of men. He establishes a simple terminology that forms a practical working basis for his further investigations.

A number of illuminating experiments with the effects of color on the psychological and physical activities of men and women are recorded, together with analyses of their reactions to various colors. The aesthetics and the harmony of colors and, finally, the music of color are suggested in such a way as to open up a fascinating line of speculation.

Mr. Luckiesh's object throughout is to deal only with the facts—"the tools available by the futurist in the highest possible development of the language of color—the art of mobile color." He has not only succeeded in vividly suggesting the possible achievements of the "mobile-colorists" of the future, but has contributed a really valuable and practical survey of a subject concerning which the layman would do well to clear up some of his rather hazy notions.

THE LANGUAGE OF COLOR. BY M. LUCKIESH. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.50.

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